Fellowship

PEACE INFORMATION EDITION

AUGUST 15, 1958
VOL. 24 NO.16

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THE MORAL DILEMMA OF THE MIDDLE EAST

As this is written, the Middle East seems to be settling down into a simmering brew that is, unfortunately, quite capable of boiling up again at any moment. Lebanon has elected a new president acceptable to both the rebels and the West, and he has provided the United States with a convenient exit plan from its misconceived intervention by announcing that he would ask for withdrawal of American troops as soon as he takes office in September. The United States has recognized the new Iraqi government, thus removing fears of intervention there, and the Chinese ironically have relieved our Administration of the necessity of a summit conference it didn't want but had to accept.

While the bulk of the American press approved the intervention, there has been considerable stern criticism in this country and oceans of it abroad. The United States has used up "at one blow" all the residue of good will it had acquired in the Arabic world at the time of the Suez crisis, writes Geoffrey Barraclough from London in *The Nation*, and other correspondents report in the same tone. The action, virtually on the borders of the Soviet Union and in an area of strategic importance to her, might well have set off World War III, some commentators warn, and Prof. Barraclough adds that "The United States has no interest in the Middle East which is worth the risk of a single H-bomb on an American city."

There is another side to the case, of course, and Mr. Dulles might well remind some of his critics that he is following the same course of action that some of them repeatedly have said should have been followed by his predecessors twenty years ago.

There is now, he might say, an aggressive, expanding, totalitarian imperialism moving into one new position of power after another, as there was then. How frequently has it been said that Hitler could have been stopped if the Allies had acted vigorously and with courage early enough! Had the Axis dictators been halted in Spain, or had England, France and the U. S. prevented the rape of Czechoslovakia, these critics said, World War II might have been prevented. Why should the argument be different today?

The West is standing for defense of a status quo that is permeated with injustice. It is defending it against shrewd assaults by powerful antagonists who most certainly will not rest content with any single victory, but will be inspired to go on to new fields of conquest.

If the West stands by and does nothing, it will be stripped of power and possessions. The principal stake the United States has in the Middle East is the fact that that area presently supplies most of the oil needed by its allies in Western Europe. That may not justify the risk of a single H-bomb on an American city, but it justifies a great deal in the context in which governments work. A Middle East controlled by the Soviet Union would complicate enormously the economy of Western Europe and the whole structure of NATO.

If the West intervenes, on the other hand, the logic of the situation demands action unhindered by scruples about the niceties of behavior. The power struggle is not fought with kid gloves,

(Continued on next page)

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Box 271, Nyack, New York

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FELLOWSHIP is published twice monthly. Re-entered as second-class matter January 1, 1958 at the Post Office at Nyack, N.Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879; additional entry at Lebanon, Pa.

Middle East Dilemma *(cont'd)*

nor are moral considerations permitted to stand in the way of effective action.

The West--and the United States in particular--will continue to be on the defensive, yielding the initiative to the other side again and again, so long as it struggles to retain intact its favored position in a world abounding in misery. The initiative could be ours again, but only when we lay by our armaments and our selfishness at the same time, and begin the long task of making equality and dignity available to all men.

Senate Approves Humane Slaughter

On August 1, the U.S. Senate approved a bill providing for humane practices in the slaughtering of animals for meat. The bill, already approved by the House of Representatives and endorsed by religious groups, now awaits the signature of the President in order to become law.

Bhave Given $10,000 Award

Vinoba Bhave, disciple of Gandhi and a recent contributor to *Fellowship*, was the first recipient of an award established by the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation. During the past seven years years, Bhave has persuaded landlords to give millions of acres of land to impoverished farmers in India. "He has sought nothing for himself," the foundation's citation said, "least of all recognition of his achievements, and has won the high respect of his countrymen."

Golden Rule Crew, Others Mark Hiroshima Anniversary

The five members of the crew the *Golden Rule*, recently releas from jail in Honolulu, sent a letter the mayor of Hiroshima to commemora the thirteenth anniversary of the dr ping of the first atomic bomb.

"We crew members of the *Gold Rule*," the letter said, "join you heart and thought. With you, we cheri the memory of the innocent dead, a renew our compassion for the maim and disfigured...With you and all me women and children, we ask the en by all nations, of production, posse sion and testing of nuclear weapons

Among observances held in man other parts of the world was a 24-ho prayer vigil sponsored by the FOR a AFSC in San Francisco, with 48 Chri ian ministers, Jewish rabbis, Musl imams, Buddhist priests and othe participating.

At United Nations Plaza in N York, the Committee for a Sane Nucle Policy organized a ceremony at whi flowers were presented to Shige Niimoto who, when a girl of 13, w badly scarred by the Hiroshima bombin

In Hiroshima, Japan, sirens wail and bells tolled as 30,000 people gat ered for a memorial service and pea rally. Mayor Tadao Watanabe, in address there, called the use of nucle weapons, "by whatever nation for wh ever purpose...a crime against h manity." In Tokyo, Japanese Prim Minister Nobusuke Kishi expresse regret that Japan's efforts toward a b on nuclear weapons have so far be unsuccessful, and announced that Jap would submit a new draft resolution the UN General Assembly calling f suspension of nuclear tests.

Many American pacifist groups ma wide use of an article featured in t July 1 issue of *Fellowship*, "Hiroshi Thirteen Years After." By the fi week in August, all extra copies the issue were sold out. The articl by Hiroshima pastor Kiyoshi Tanimo an FOR member, was also reprinted *The Mennonite* and as a leaflet di tributed by the New York AFSC.

NEWS from the peace front

ɔurt Rejects H-Ban Suit

On July 31, U. S. District Judge chmond B. Keech dismissed two law-its aimed at halting U. S. nuclear sts in the Marshall Islands area of e Pacific.

Among the 39 plaintiffs in the case ere Nobel Prizewinners Linus Pauling d Bertrand Russell. The judge ruled at none of the plaintiffs except a ɔup of Marshall Islanders among them uld show that he was being injured ɔre than others. The islanders' claim as ignored on the ground that, as n-resident aliens, they were ineligi-e to seek an injunction in the United ates courts.

Similar petitions to halt tests have en presented to the British and Soviet vernments, and Norman Thomas has esented oral arguments to the UN usteeship Council, calling upon the cter "to take cognizance of the use the Marshall Islands, for which the ited States is trustee, as a testing ound for nuclear weapons," and to te that such use is "an illegitimate tension" of the United States' power a trustee.

ɔakers Ask White House Meeting

On August 5 the Friends General nference sent a letter to President isenhower, requesting that a special eeting be arranged to enable Quaker aders to discuss current world prob-ms with him. Among the points refer-d to in the letter were "the continuing ed to end nuclear weapons as a first ep toward worldwide disarmament," e problem of U. S. troops in Lebanon d how to get them out, and the pro-ɔsed Summit conference.

The letter was written on behalf of special meeting of more than 200 aakers in Washington, D.C.

egionnaire Assails Pacifist Sect

In New York last month, an official the New York State American Legion cried the presence of some 160,000 Jehovah's Witnesses meeting there for a world assembly. "It is outrageous," said Edward J. McLaughlin, Veterans Affairs director, "that in this city an organization which refuses to raise its hand to protect its country or to salute the flag is getting more publicity" than the American Legion.

Over the past ten years, the membership of veterans organizations has declined by approximately one million. During the same period the pacifist Witnesses have doubled their membership to a present total of 787,967.

U. S. Stockpiles "Dirty" Bombs

Defense Secretary Neil H. McElroy conceded last month that the United States is stockpiling "dirty" atomic weapons. These bombs are triggered to cause low-level explosions which pick up dirt and make it radioactive, thus increasing local fallout. In a letter to Senator Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.) McElroy said: "We are stockpiling bombs which are essentially 100 percent fission and have never made any statements to the contrary. In our terminology these are 'normal' weapons."

McElroy defined as "normal" those weapons in which no attempt had been made to reduce radioactive fallout.

Seminarians, Please Note

The relevance of Kierkegaard's teaching for pacifists is the theme of a major article by Paul L. Holmer, noted Kierkegaard authority, in the big September 1 issue of Fellowship. *You will want to read this article and discuss it with your classmates. This issue is ideal to start a student gift subscription with. (The November 1 issue will carry the ball with an important article by a leading pacifist theologian--"Pacifism and Christian Responsibility" by Culbert G. Rutenber.) The September 1 issue also features articles on racial problems in Chicago and South West Africa, a meditation by John Yungblut and "My Pilgrimage to Nonviolence" by Martin Luther King. Extra copies available at 30¢ each, 10 for $2--send in your orders now.*

Michigan FOR On D.C. Pilgrimage

On July 29, a delegation of five Michigan FOR members left Detroit for a three-day Peace Pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. The group, headed by the Rev. Willis Hunting of Deerfield, talked with congressmen and other officials about the Middle East crisis, nuclear weapons tests and disarmament. The group sought unsuccessfully to obtain an interview with President Eisenhower, but deposited a letter from Michigan FOR Chairman F. E. Densmore with a White House guard.

FOR Member in Interfaith Work

FOR member Dr. Alvah I. Cox, a leader in the North East Ohio Conference of the Methodist Church, has been selected to serve as a special representative of the Continuing Committee on Muslim-Christian Cooperation. In this capacity Dr. Cox will visit Christian and Muslim communities in Asia and the Middle East to promote interfaith understanding and explore new areas of cooperation between the two religions.

ISL Off U.S. Blacklist

After ten years, the Independent Socialist League, a Marxist splinter group with about 200 members, has been removed from the U.S. Attorney General's list of subversive organizations. Also dropped from the blacklist was the ISL's affiliate, the Social Youth League. Throughout their exi ence, both the ISL and SYL have be vigorously opposed to the policies the USSR. Max Schachtman, chairma of the ISL, was for several years deni a passport because of the "subv sive" taint, until the Supreme Co awarded it to him a few years ago.

Graetz to Leave Montgomery

Robert S. Graetz, white pastor all-Negro Trinity Lutheran Church Montgomery, Alabama, announced August 6 that he plans to leave Mo gomery to become pastor of a chur in Columbus, Ohio. Graetz, who he the Trinity pulpit for three years, r ceived hundreds of threats and seve attempts were made to bomb his ho as a result of his steadfast support the Montgomery bus boycott.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Aug. 29-31. New England FOR Natio Conference at Laurel Park, Mass. Fe tured speakers include Nels F.S. Fer John M. Swomley Jr., Alfred Hassl Glenn E. Smiley and others. Write R Robert Gussner, FOR, 10 Kirkla Road, Cambridge 38, Mass.

Aug. 29- Sept. 1. Second Americ Friends Conference on Race Relatio at Westtown School, Pa. Write Vic Paschkis, Room 624 Engineering, C lumbia University, New York 27, N.

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